Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 ERDA-07 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 OES-06 SS-15 SP-02 INT-05 ABF-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /154 W

-----200219Z 099325 /73

R 191641Z JAN 77 FM USMISSION GENEVA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4618 INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS GENEVA 0339

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: UNEP SENV
SUBJ: UNEP INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS - LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENT
FUND

- 1. INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS WITH 32 MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNING COUNCIL REPRESENTED AND IO NON-MEMBER OBSERVERS DISCUSSED THE FUTURE LEVEL OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND AT THREE SESSIONS. BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WAS EXDIR TOLBA(S REQUEST THAT FOR PERIOD 1978-82 THE FUND BE SET AT A LEVEL OF DOLS 190 MILLION AND THAT PLEDGES BE MADE BY MEMBERS FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME. CLEAR CONSENSUS DEVELOPED IN DISCUSSIONS LED BY JAPAN, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, SWEDEN, AND US THAT PLEDGE FOR FIVE-YEAR PERIOD OUT OF THE QUESTION AND THAT FIGURE OF DOLS 190 MILLION WAY OUT OF THE BALL PARK.
- 2. ONLY SWITZERLAND INDICATED THAT IT WAS THINKING OF INCREASING ITS CONTRIBUTION, ADDING THAT IT WOULD PROBABLY PLEDGE FOR A TWO-YEAR PERIOD. THE FRG STATED THAT ALONG WITH OTHERS IT HAD DIFFICULTY WITH PLEDGE FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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A FIVE-YEAR PERIOD. SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, BONN HAD EARMARKED 4.5 MILLION DM FOR 1978. OTHER SPEAKERS REITERATED THEIR CONTINUING SUPPORT FOR UNEP BUT MENTIONED NO SPECIFIC FUTURE PLEDGE AND DENMARK INDICATED IT HAD SLOWED DOWN ITS ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTION AND STATED THAT WHILE ITS INTEREST IN UNEP WOULD NOT FLAG IT MAY NOT BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE AT THE SAME PACE

AS HERETOFORE. SWEDEN THOUGHT IT BEST TO GATHER A FEW MORE YEARS OF EXPERIENCE BEFORE INCREASING ITS CONTRIBUTION.

- 3. JAPANESE AMBASSADOR TO KENYA OTA OPENED THE GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE FUND POINTING TO THE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN UNEP'S RATE OF PERFORMANCE IN 1976 (DOLS 20 MILLION) AND THE RATE OF PERFORMANCE REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARIAT FOR 1978 AND BEYOND AN AVERAGE OF DOLS 38 MILLION PER YEAR. THE CONSENSUS COALESCED AROUND HIS STATEMENT TO THE EFFECT THAT THE RECORD DID NOT SHOW THAT UNEP WAS READY TO OPERATE AT THAT RATE. JAPAN ALONG WITH OTHERS (INCLUDING USSR, SCANDINAVIA, ETC.) EMPHASIZED UNEP'S CATALYTIC ROLE AND THAT IT SHOULD AVOID OPERATIONAL PROGRAMS.
- 4. US STATEMENT WAS THAT WE INTEND MAKE OUR PLEDGE ON AN ANNUAL BASIS SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATIONS AND WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE APPROVED MID-TERM PLAN AND BIENNIAL BUDGET. WE STATED FURTHER THAT WHILE WE COULD NOT MAKE COMMITMENTS AT THIS TIME, WE HOPE TO GIVE AN INDICATION OF OUR LEVEL OF CONTRIBUTION FOR THE PERIOD OF THE BIENNIUM AT GCV. WE ASSUMED THAT THE US CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH US SUPPORT TO UNEP THUS FAR AND MENTIONED THE DOLS 10 MILLION FOR UNEP IN FY77. APPROPRIATION LEGISLATION.CATTO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ENVIRONMENT, BUDGETS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition Event:
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA00339
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A

Errors: N/A **Expiration:**

Film Number: D770020-0939

Format: TEL From: GENEVA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path: ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770138/aaaabhbr.tel

Line Count: 88 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 22f1a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION IO

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 28-Sep-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3561915 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: UNEP INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS - LEVEL OF ENVIRONMENT FUND

TAGS: SENV, SZ, UNEP

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/22f1a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009